RICHARD CROKER PRAISED BY ASSOCIATES WHO HELPED HIM RULE CITY

CROKER RULED CITY WITH DESPOT'S ROD

Fought Way With Fists and Brains to Gain Control of Tammany.

DEFEATED ONLY TWICE

Dared Defy Tweed as Ward Leader, but Brooked No Defiance Himself.

RETIRED TO IRISH HOME

Then Devoted Life to Horses and Cattle and Forgot New York Politics.

Richard Croker was the leader of any Hall when that position mastery of New York city. A poliuncommon sagacity and ss, he united the warring elemore absolute sway than it had ever known under his predece Tweed and John Kelly.

Croker's rule over Tammany lasted eventeen years, counting in the brief eriod when, with Croker abroad, John Sheehan was its titular head. In only two defeats in the city-the election of William L. Strong in 1894 and that of Seth Low in 1901. The lowers and the discipline he enforced on those he put on Tammany tickets

The leader of the Hall in those years was frequently referred to as "New ended characteristically and with it then \$4,000 a year. dramatically in 1902 with an abdica-

out of office.

In the meantime Croker had been making friends with John Kelly, destined to succeed Tweed. Croker threw anathema to the reform elements in his city for years and regarded as the meannation of political unrighteousness, is vish loyalty from a large part of tew York's population.

To many whose memories still stretch

New York he was the very ideal of a political leader. Taciturn, sphinxlike and bold at times to the point of audacity, with a political sagacity almost uncanny to his followers, he knew how to reward and enrich the faithful with the spoils of victory and to punish the least infractions of his commands. He alone was the slatemaker in those days and the dictator of appointments. His power was no better evidenced than in the scenes at Lakewood that followed the election of Van Wyck as Greater New York's first Mayor. It was Croker and not the Mayor elect was congleted the and the dictator of appointments. To many men of less ability anything for somany political battle fields to face inevitable defeat. His friends, however, as that was followed and courted through the case been the deathblow to diskip to the first mayor the burdens of the cattering that his health could no mittee, declaring that his health could no mittee, declaring that his health could no longer withstand the burdens which the office entailed. This was accepted with a display of emotion on the part of the leaders that may in the faithful in the factional fighting in the Eighous the tenth district. In the campaign of 1874 of or office entailed. This was accepted with a display of emotion on the part of the leaders together and resigned his post as chairman of the fishnance committee, declaring that his health could no longer withstand the burdens which the office entailed. This was cate the more than the campaign of 1874 of or more than the scene at Lakewood that for the proposition to Abram S. Hewitt, whom Croker was never retried, the case being not the scene at Lakewood that for the proposition to a proposition to abram S. Hewitt, whom Croker was never retried, the case being not the scene at Lakewood that for the proposition to abram S. Hewitt, whom Croker was supporting.

To many men of less ability anything in proposition to abram S. Hewitt, whom Croker was never retried, the case being not proposition to abram S. Hewitt, whom Croker was sup

that was followed and courted through hotel corridors by the horde of any plicants for office brought there by the preatest victory in Croker's career.

Justice Daly Defied Him.

It was the disciplinary system instituted by Croker that in part was responsible for his success in making fammany powerful after a record of disorganization, and this same system brought down on Croker's head some of the worst storms of his career. It led to murmurings and an outburst when he went so far as to demand from Justice Joseph F. Daly of the Supreme Court that he appoint a personal friend of Croker's, Michael T. Daly, as chief clerk, on the ground that as Judge Daly had been elucated by Tammany he must obey its orders.

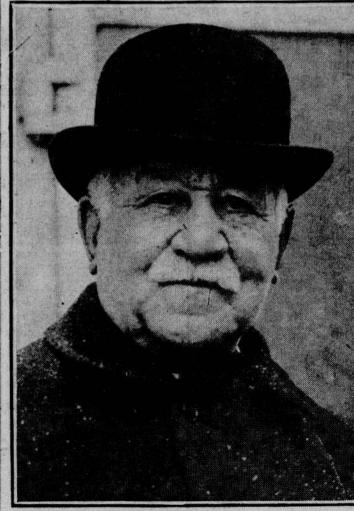
With the stubborness for which he was famous Croker, on his refusal, turned Judge Daly down for a renomination, though it meant facing a storm, the elected Justice Leventritt, whom he had nominated in his stead, but it cost had not have he had nominated in his stead, but it cost had not have he had nominated in his stead, but it cost had not have he had nominated in h

and only time in his career he had dictated, and made Theodore Roosevelt Governor.

Physical prowess and courage were responsible chiefly for the early rise of young Croker, the son of an Irish entitive of the conservative Democratic Stand could shoot it atraight. This physical prowess may have been due to the fact that his father was a blacksmith. But though a blacksmith, he did not have the humble lineage which many attributed to him. On the contrary, Croker's father, Eyre Coot Croker, came of a family which for six generations had owned their own land in Ireland and was, as things went there, of the gentry. His ancestors had ancluded officers of rank in the English army and even a member of Parliament. Richard Croker was the youngest of seven children and was born on November 3, 185, in the village of Castletownsche, Cork. Four years afterward the crony of his younger days. Grantic them sweeping Ireland, resolved to come to this country. The Croker brood were all packed in a salling ship, passed through Castle Gorden, the crowd them downown and put his son Richard in scandol in East Promy of the scandol in the father moved them some the father was the youngest of a family which the crowd them are the contrary. Croker stating the country. The Croker brood were all packed in a salling ship, passed through Castle Gorden, the Eight of the country. The Croker brood were an open of the scandol of those days, and went to live in a little house on the Bloomingdale Road. Here they remained for some years until the father moved them downtown and put his son Richard in scandol in East Promy of the scandol of the promy of the father moved them the part of Walsand and the grip of Croker and his organization and part of the whitever and put his son recently inched in East Twenty-seventh street, chard Croker—he seldom used his midnolling there. At 15 he went to work the machine shops of the New York

of some fame in the eyes of the tion

Former Tammany Chief Dead in Ireland



has made that period unique in New joined the volunteer fire department, a York's uncrowned king." His career, to raise to affluence and power. In 1867 so far as New York politics were conhe was elected Alderman, a job carrying and many of the men he was afterward

Sided With John Kelly.

tion that evoked tears from the Tammany followers. Since then he had lived the life of an Irish gentleman, wrapped up in his horses and his blooded cattle, and as far removed from American politics as anybody could very well be.

"Followers His Slaves."

"Dick Croker is the noblest work of God—an honest man," said his predecessor, John Kelly, just before his death, and most of Croker's followers agreed with this and on the occasion of his leave takings insisted that he control of the leave takings insisted that he can be seen. It is the had long been, like his father, an enrolled member of Tammany, but was only a tacit follower. It was over the opposition to Tweed and his district henchman, James O'Brien, that Croker henchman, James O'Brien, t

worth in fees \$15,000 a year.

At this time occurred the most paint to the time when Croker ruled Tork he was the very ideal of tical leader. Taciturn, sphinxlike cold at times to the point of John McKenna. McKenna was a folty, with a political sagacity almeanny to his followers, he knew or reward and enrich the faithful he spoils of victory and to punish.

Withdre win 1894.

In May, 1894, at a time when Tammany was facing the bitterest campaign in its history, Croker suddenly called the Tammany leaders together and resigned his post as chairman of the finance committee, declaring that his health could no lower of James O'Brien, Croker's rival in the factional fighting in the Eighner was a considerable with a state of the win 1894.

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investigating committee following this notable victory. It was headed by J. Sloat Fassett and was designed to make political capital for the Republicans. Croker was in Europe, supposedly in shattered health, when the committee shattered health, when 'he committee began its investigations 'n 1890. He returned at once and on the witness stand denied various assertions that had been made, some of them reflecting on is moral integrity;

The most committee was given by

m the business interests Croker re-manated and elected Grant in the suc-ding election of 1800, achieving one the most brilliant victories in his ser. Francis M. Scott, a Democrat,

on a citizens' reform ticket, was beaten by 23.000 votes. Croker followed this victory by an-other two years late, electing Thomas F. Gliroy, Taymany Grand Sachem, as Mayor by a plurality of 76,000. It was in this election that the record was made in one election district of only four votes cast against Croker's ticket.

Opposed Cleveland in 1892.

Croker, intrenched in his dictatorship opposed the renomination of Grover to Cleveland in 1892, New York's candidate being David B. Hill. But Croker did not like Hill, and by many his opposition to Cleveland was believed to have been a rather forced one. The entire New York delegation, however, signed the famous pronunciamento declaring that if Cleveland were renominated the State of New York would be lost. In the convention Bourke Cockran, then hand and glove with Croker, delivered his philippic against the then Demogratic President of the United States. Nevertheless Cleveland was nominated on the first ballot.

Withdre win 1894.

Withdre win 1894.

leadership and race his horses.

The four years of the Van Wyck administration marked the culmination of Croker's political career and was the most picturesque period in the life of the old Tammany boss. No political leader in America ever was so feted, flattered, courted and careased as Croker was in the days when he held his levees at the Democratic Club. Everybody of any importance in the city administration struggled to zet his earth of the courter.

As if to mark his coronation, a sen in the formula is a suit by Howard. It culminated in a suit by Howard. It culmi

Croker's Death Is Kept From O'Brien on Birthday

EPORTERS went last night to the home of Morgan J. O'Brien at 729 Park avenue the death of Richard Croker, whose close friend he was. They were met by Mrs. O'Brien. She said that Judge O'Brien was celebrating his seventieth birthday and that he had Only members of the family and a

few friends were at the dinner.
"We have kept the news from him," explained Mrs. O'Brien. "He will not know of Mr. Croker's death until he reads the Sunday papers and then it will be too late to spo the birthday party we have arranged for him."

dollar dinner was held at the Metropol itan House. It was attended by more ecord for sumptuous banquets. At this feast Croker received the homage of all those whom he had set once more on

The Mazet committee was even then conducting its investigations into Tammany's rule of the city. The very next day Croker took the stand and definantly answered the questions of Frank Moss on his methods of ruling Tammany and his own private business.

Admitted Selfish Ends.

It was on the stand that day that Croker delivered his famous utterance about working for his own pocket. Asked if he had not obtained the nomination of men who would see that he and his partner, Peter F. Meyer, then in the real estate business, would not

"Then you are working for your own pocket?" Frank Moss flung at him.
"All the time, every day in the week, just the same as you are." retorted Croker, and the Tammanyites present yelled, "That's the stuff!"

Croker in 1898, over the opposition of David B. Hill, but with the assistance of Hurh McLaughlin premiered Assistance of Further than the control of the con David B. Hill, but with the assistance of Hugh McLaughlin, nominated Augustus Van Wyck for Governor against Roose-velt. The cry went up, "Van Wyck, Van Wyck & Co." Roosevelt won by 18,000, but Croker elected in the county his candidate for Justice, David Leven-tritt, whom he had nominated in place of Justice Daly

Croker and Hill never got along to-ether. On one occasion Croker left fill's room in the Hoffman House and

Hill's room in the Hoffman House and announced to the reporters:
"I have just called David B. Hill a liar to his face. Go upstairs and see if I am telling the truth."
Hill called Croker "a racetrack statesman." Croker supported Senator Edward Murphy for State leader against Hill and in the national convention of 1900 had Hill turned down as New York's member on the platform committee. Hill left the room in tears, the only time his associates ever saw him display emotion.

when men like Maurice Holahan wept.

Croker had devoted his attention for many years to raising thoroughbreds at Thomas F. Smith, his place at Wantage in England and many Hall, had problater at Glencairn in Ireland. In one Richard Croker sin

dren.
Croker's eldest son, Frank, was killed in an abtomobile accident in Florida.
His second son, Herbert, soon after this died on a train near Kansas City

been drugge'
Croker, with his intimates, was the soul of generosity and loyalty and was credited by them with never breaking his word. He did not drink, declaring credited by them with never breaking his word. He did not drink declaring that alcohol wasn't good for horses and therefore, in his opinion, wasn't good for human beings. No man was over more lampooned, yet he was never sensitive over this. Several years before his death his former cronies here received from him handsomely bound volumes containing a collection of more than a thousand of these cartoons which he had carefully got together.

In Dispute With Children.

Bulled City Through Van Wyck.

The four years of the Van Wyck administration marked the culmination of Croker's political career and was the

CHIEFTAIN MOURNED BY OLD ASSOCIATES

New York Can Be Proud of Richard Croker, Says Nathan Straus.

PRAISE FROM VOORHIS

Superior Man of Rugged Honesty and Courage, Avers Thomas F. Smith.

NEWS A SHOCK TO NIXON

James A. O'Gorman Remembers Boss's Work in Developing Great City.

lic life who had known Richard Croker united in praising him as a man of

Nathan Straus, who for forty year was a friend of Mr. Croker, said: "Richard Croker was a loyal friend

friendliness and kindness of heart. He

only time his associates ever saw him display emotion.

In January, 1902, following the defeat of Croker's candidate, Edward M. Shepard, by Seth Low, Croker again laid down his leadership.

At a dinner at the Democratic Club on January 22, 1902, attended by sixtyfour of his friends, Croker delivered a twenty-three minute speech announcing that "his day was done."

To Lewis Nixon, then enjoying his especial favor, Croker at this feast handed the crown. Some of the guests shed tears. Others reserved their tears for the following day when Croker sailed away, bombarded with flowers. It was a dramatic leave taking of the most picturesque political figure New York politics ever produced.

stable and he bought a half interest in the famous Belle Mead stud, which included such horses as Longstreet, Fairy, in 1895. Croker spent most of the interest in the famous Belle Mead stud, which included such horses as Longstreet, Fairy, in 1895. Croker spent most of the interior in Europe, but was persuaded to 1896 he moved his stable to England and entered his colors on the English turf. The Englishman did not take it kindly and this unpleasantness culminated finally in Croker being barred from the privilege of Newmarket.

With characteristic patience.

as we friend that in the lead of the many stands and this unpleasantness culminated finally in Croker being barred from the privilege of Newmarket.

With characteristic patience, Croker set about deliberately to win the blue ribbon of the English turf, in spite of these handicaps. On June 4, 1907, occurred the triumph of his racing career, his coit Orby, ridden by Johnny Reiff and trained at Croker's stables in Ireland, coming home two and a half lengths in the lead. "Hoist the Irish flag," Croker telegraphed home to Glencairn, and there was great jubilation is Ireland.

Wife Helped Him in Early Days.

Croker was married twice. His first wife was a Miss Margaret Frazier, whom he married when he was a mere ward politician. In their early years of married life her influence on him was very marked. Indeed, the first Mrs. Croker, who came of a well to do family and was convent bred, was credited with putting much of the polish on Croker's rough exterior in the years when he was climbing to the top. For many years they lived an apparently model demestic life with their six chilsdren.

Croker's eldest son, Frank, was killed was marked by the utmost intelligence and enestic part of the proposition of time of the polish on Croker's eldest son, Frank, was killed was marked by the utmost intelligence and enestic part of the proposition of through the shout time Croker sent for him and despite vigoro the time Croker sent for him and the private secretary, the first made him his private secretary, the first made him his private secretary, the first made him his private secretary of Tammany. It was time Croker's final capture file him his private secretary of Tammany. It was time Croker's final capture file him his private secretary of Tammany. It was the "Boss" had ever had. Soon after the "Boss" had ever had.

that was Mr. Croker. He was a mind of manufacture of the contentions and right minded. He was to conceintions and right minded. He was to conceintions and right minded. He was convert bred, was receited much of the pollsh of much of the pollsh of the was the fall of the was the first was full of flatly deeds. He was not content bred was received much of the pollsh of the was the first was full of flatly deeds. He was not content bred was received much of the pollsh of the was the first was full of flatly deeds. He was not content bred was reproduced quickly to any worthy in the was full of a wery dear friend. He was an extra the pollsh of the pollsh of

CROKER AND HIS CHILDREN ESTRANGED BY LAWSUITS A CHARGE OF MURDER

Tammany Chief and His Indian Wife Vindicated in Action So Far Terminated-Father and Richard, Jr., Split in 1917 Over Latter's Rights.

position were the New York firm of Mc-Combs & Ryan, the senior member of which was the late William F. McCombs, chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1912 and one of the plo-neer champions of Woodrow Wilson.

Celebrated allenists also were sum-moned by each side and the trial of the

RICHARD CROKER, EX-CHIEF OF TAMMANY HALL, DIES cence beyond a question of by telling that name.

leader retired in the fall of 1901.

In May, 1902, the Nixon leadership ended by resignation and was replaced by that of the triumvirate—Charles F. Murphy, Louis F. Haffen and Daniel McMahon—described in those days by Zig Bill Devery as "sport, two spot and J.ke." Murphy speedily emerged as the strong man of this combination and has been leader of Tammany ever since.

"I am inexpressibly shocked by the news of Mr. Croker's death," said Mr. Nixon. "I had the greatest respect for his political judgment, his ability and his integrity, and feel that his loss is that of a very dear friend."

The last years of Richard Croker's life were embittered by allenation from his children, who conducted a long series of legal actions against him. The setrangement dated from Mr. Croker's marriage to his second wife, Bula, who represented herself as of American Indian stock.

His sons and daughters, in March, 1319, obtained from the court in West Palm Beach, Fla, a temporary injunction, restraining the old chieftain "from further dissipating his estate." In the supporting papers it was alleged that he was mentally unsound and incompetent to handle his extensive affairs and that he was being unduly influenced by his second wife, who, by means of gifts and deeds, was rapidly taking possession of the major part of his fortune.

The issue went to trial in the spring of 1920 in the West Palm Beach Circuit Court. Both Mr. and Mrs. Croker came from Ireland to defend the case, which had enlisted galaxies of counsel on each side. Maroid Nathan was senior coursel for the former Tammany boss. Representing the sons and daughters in a like position were the New York firm of McCombs & Ryan, the senior member of which was the late William F. McCombs, chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1912 and one of the pio-

twas extremely ill and recently had lost much weight.

In the reputation for the highest intrusted."

With a reputation for the high of his point in the upper East Si

HE KNEW THE SLAYER Refused to Take Easy Way

RESULT OF A GANG FIGHT Gen. Wingate, Lawyer for De fense, Tells of Politician Being Near Gallows.

the man who was guilty and that at

There are a few New Yorker Continued from First Page.

Mr. Croker outlived by many years most of the oldtime Tammany figures and the "reformers" as well with whom His from the Linder Absolutely forbade it. Those who have heard it have heard it in confidence and were conviction that he was a captain of Dublin correspondent of The New York Dublin correspondent of The New York Dublin correspondent of The New York Herald Page 1. At that time the invalid was able to leave his sick room and go down stairs. He believed ment from the leadership and his rement from the leadership and his remented to the second the story of the lolding that the wind who know it. It has never been told generally because Croker absolutely forbade it. Those who have heard it have heard it in confidence and were men who would keep confidences, else they never would have been told. It is at once the story of what was Cro-ker's deepest sorrow and the story of what was Cro-ker's deepest sorrow and the story of what was Cro-ker's deepest sorrow and the story of what was Cro-ker's deepest sorrow and the story of what was Cro-ker's deepest sorrow and the story of what was Cro-ker's deepest sorrow and the story of what was Cro-ker's deepest sorrow and the story of what was Cro-ker's deepest sorrow and the story of what was Cro-ker's deepest sorrow and the story of whose like will not be seen and the "reformers" as well with whom most of the oldtime Tammany figures and the "reformers" as well with whom the story of who know it. It has never been told generally because Croker absolutely forbade it. Those who know it is some, but not many, Tammany men who know it. I stern exterior was
riendiliness and kindness of heart. He
was slow in giving his word, but once
given, nothing could made him device
given, nothing could made him device
from it.

"When I was nominated for Mayor
he made only one riquest of me—to
do what I thought was right and he
for the city, irrespective of politics or
party. The people of New York loss
in his death one of whom they could
be proud, and of whom I personally
was very fond."

"Requests Always Proper."
George B. McClellan. speaking over
the telephone from his home in Prince
to, said. "Mr. Croker was a very flies
gentleman, and I am new own in politics
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is deep sorrow, with the stigma

Accuséd in Early Life, Was

Tried and Jury Split

Six to Six.

to Clear Himself by Re-

vealing Culprit.

intercourse was always very satisfactory. I was very much shocked to hear
of his death. Mr. Croker was a great
of his death, Mr. Croker was one doubt as
for those who deceived. When I held
office where there was patronage
he
fold me. If the organization sends you
any men you don't think fit don't appoint them."

Robert M. Sweitzer, Chicago Democratic leader since the death of Roger
Sullivan, sald to a correspondent for
The New York Herald.

Mrs. Croker believed that the ilines he was a marvel of well
offer where there was one of the greateat organizers American politics has
ever known. Tammany Hall owed its
at rapport of the particular death of the district.

The mass of the mr.

Thomas F. Smith, secretary of Tammany Hall, had probably kept closer to
Richard Croker, since his retirement
from the Hall than any who had been
associated with him in his leadership
days. Smith went into Tammany with
John C. Sheehan, who was well
below the croker of the could really curve a ball. At
that time, he felt as if he might live
friends here, including John M. Richie,
the total that time, he felt as if he might live
friends here, including John M. Richie,
the total that time, he felt as if he might live
friends here, including John M. Richie,
the presented with him that leader of the could here a call many
that the charge of the min the leafer of the could have t world series but gasses.

Giants and the Yankees, but said one was enough. In conversation with a reporter for The New Yirk Herald he expressed some doubt as to whether a pitcher could really curve a ball. At that time he felt as if he might live iffty years longer, and in fact until his fatal illness he was a marvel of well preserved strength and youtfulness. He and Mrs. Croker lived at the Hotel Salve of the particular election day in question that a gang of O'Brien's men were making their way through a portion of the district, upsetting the Tammany electioneering booths and driving far from the polls the men who had been placed in charge of them. With two or three of his lieutenants Croker is the district, upsetting the Tammany party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the party and also for the anti-Tammany party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the marking their way through a portion of the district upsetting the Tammany party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the marking their way through a party of the district party, represented in the district by James O'Brien, who afterward becames the marking their way through a party of the district by James O'Brien, who as a fist of the party, represented in the dis

said: Mr. Croker was one of the most